

**Easterling, Deborah**

275105

**From:** Easterling, Deborah  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2018 3:27 PM  
**To:** 'Karen C'  
**Subject:** RE: Carolina Water Service Docket No. 2017-292-WS

Dear Ms. Caddell,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).

- Docket No. 2017-292-WS - Application of Carolina Water Service, Incorporated for Approval of an Increase in Its Rates for Water and Sewer Services

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can also follow Docket No. 2017-292-WS at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116450>.

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling  
 Executive Assistant  
 Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
 803-896-5133  
**Sign up for Meeting Agenda Alerts: Text PSCAGENDAS to 39492**

**From:** Karen C [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2018 3:09 PM  
**To:** PSC\_Contact <Contact@psc.sc.gov>  
**Subject:** Carolina Water Service Docket No. 2017-292-WS



\* Required Fields

**Letter of Protest**  
**in Docket** 2017 - 292 - WS

Date: \* 3/15/18

**Protestant Information:**

Name \* Karen Caddell

Mailing Address \* \_\_\_\_\_

City\* Irmo

State\* SC

Zip \* 29063

Phone \* \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail . \_\_\_\_\_

**1. What is your connection or interest in this case? \* For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)**

Carolina Water Service sewer customer

**2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. \* (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)**

Our recreation, health, environment, aquatic life, and economy all suffer the negative impact of CWS's poor performance. They have a 20 year history of spill violations and they have a one to two year goal to get out of the Friarsgate Plant. They do not deserve an increase which would reflect a 75% increase over the past 4 years. They need to use the revenue saved in economic benefit during the 17 years alone that they did not hook up the I-20 plant to a regional system as ordered.

please see attached.

**3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding , if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? \***

yes

**RECEIVED**

MAR 15 2018

PSC SC  
MAIL / DMS

## PERFORMANCE

CWS has a history of over 20 years of violations. CWS was told to connect I-20 plant to a regional system but didn't for 17 years while DHEC dug it's feet. DHEC finally refused the permit renewal after an August 2015 public hearing was jammed packed with citizens, business owners, environmental groups, and politicians representing the public outrage.

The Congaree Riverkeeper fought a 6 year legal battle over this, ultimately winning and CWS had to stop discharge from the I-20 plant this month.

According to Bill Stangler, The Congaree Riverkeeper, CWS numbers for the last 3 years (2015-2017): 40 spills, 74,220 gallons. In 2017 alone CWS had 14 spills totaling just over 20,000 gallons. BUT,,,,,, they're only required to report spills in excess of 500 gallons.

Last year The State Newspaper said regarding CWS sewage:

"Carolina Water violated federal pollution discharge limits at least 23 different times, the order states. The company kept its I-20 plant open for 17 years after it was required to connect with the regional sewer system, the judge said.

In 2016 the FRIARSGATE PLANT spill caused swimming advisories on the Saluda River due to unsafe levels of bacteria. Essentially closing the river to recreation over summer holiday including July 4. As a result, which caused lost revenue for What about those who accessed unmarked areas or before it

was posted? Uninformed exposure can result in health problems that can range from mild gastrointestinal discomfort to more serious illnesses such as Hepatitis and Dysentery. And then there's the damage to everyone downstream, not to mention the environmental damage, algae blooms, and harm aquatic organisms. The fish, waterfowl, turtles, amphibians, etc.....

There is also economic damage.

River Runner Outdoor Center, Palmetto Outdoor Center, Get Your Gear On, Adventure Carolina, Canoeing for Kids and Saluda Valley Guides are suing for damages because river pollution from CWS has resulted in "business losses, loss of recreational opportunity, loss of customers and clients, a negative stigma associated with the river and other losses associated with the Saluda River."

This is in the wake of that Friarsgate summer 2016 spill.

The river-related businesses named as plaintiffs in the suit stated that they "will continue to suffer" because of CWS. People remember and don't trust the river environment to be safe. And rightly so, given CWS spill history.

**Our recreation, health, environment, aquatic life, and economy all suffer negative impact of CWS.**

## MONEY

We the customers are also paying in dollars. We're already paying for Friarsgate work to the tune of \$593k from 2 years ago.

During one four-year stretch of the 17 that CWS didn't hook up to a regional system, the company gained an "economic benefit" of \$689,000 annually, Judge Seymour said. Economic benefit often is considered the amount of money saved by a company, person or government for failing to take steps that would control pollution."

That's over \$2.75 million dollars! WERE DID THAT GO??

Let them use that money instead of a rate increase!

I wonder if the requested rate increase intended to recoup that loss incurred by the \$1.5 million fine Or the loss of revenue from the condemned I-20 plant?

Catherine Heigel said CWS's goal is to be free of the Friarsgate Plant in one to two years. Are they increasing the revenue to make a sale more appealing and profitable? To pocket that profit at the expense of the customers who are left with a bloated rate on top of the damage from spills?

After looking at my past bills, it appears that an increase would result in an increase from \$40 to \$70 in just 4 years! That's a 75% increase in 4 years. That's \$840 annually for JUST sewer

for a single family dwelling. In my case, a single person dwelling.

The PSC mission statement begins with "To Serve The Public of South Carolina" ,,,,,,

So please, do that and deny this rate increase. Do more and hold them accountable.